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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Ninth session
New York, 3-13 September 1996
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties
3. Special action
   - (a) urgent action for Africa
   - (b) action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions
4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention
5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the tenth session
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its ninth session

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Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Arrangements have been made for the ninth session to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 3-13 September 1996.

At the eighth session, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the ninth session, as contained in Appendix IV of the Report of the eighth session (Document A/51/76). The provisional agenda is submitted for adoption.

A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Secretariat's world wide web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/>. A tentative schedule of work is provided in Annex II.

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 10:00 a.m., on 3 September. The brief opening session will be immediately followed by meetings of regional groups to be continued in the afternoon. The Plenary will resume on 4 September, at which time it will hear statements from the Chairman of the Committee and the Executive Secretary who will present an overview of issues before the Committee at the ninth session and will introduce the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also review document A/AC.241/9/Add.12 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau will meet, prior to the opening of the session, at 7:00 p.m., on 2 September.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

This agenda item refers to issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or soon thereafter. The INCD continued work on these issues at its eighth session in two Working Groups, in accordance with resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period.

A number of INCD members expressed the view, at the eighth session, that the mandates of the Working Groups should be reexamined with a view to achieving a better balance of work and cohesion in the consideration of issues. In this regard, it was suggested that the issue of financial rules should be transferred to Working Group II. Since the current mandates of Working Groups were decided by INCD resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period, the proposed modification to the mandates of the groups would equally require the adoption of a resolution by the Committee.

The current status of each issue is set out below.

Working Group One Issues:

(a) *Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning*: the Group will have before it, in accordance with INCD decision 8/2, the draft decision submitted by Uganda at the seventh session on behalf of INCD member States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, document A/AC.241/54 compiling offers received by 1st June 1996 from governments interested in hosting the Permanent Secretariat, and document A/AC.241/55 compiling

(i) communications received from international organizations by 1st June 1996 expressing interest in providing administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat and information to justify such interest, and

(ii) written comments by INCD members to the Interim Secretariat received by 1st June 1996 on the note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the administrative arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat contained in document A/AC.241/44.

(b) *Financial rules*: consistent with decision 8/4, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/45/Rev.1 containing a revised version of the draft financial rules taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the eighth session.

(c) *Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism*: in accordance with INCD decision 8/5, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/56 providing

(i) a compilation of submissions by INCD members on the functions of the Global Mechanism received by 1 May 1996, of comments on this issue at the eighth session and any additional information received from relevant institutions, as well as

(ii) a preliminary negotiating text on the functions of the Global Mechanism and the criteria for selection of an institution to house it.

Working Group Two Issues:

(a) *Organization of scientific and technological cooperation*: the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/57 containing, in accordance with INCD decision 8/6,

(i) a revised draft decision on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology reflecting deliberations at the eighth session, and

(ii) draft decisions on the roster of independent experts and on ad hoc panels based on comments and suggestions made at the eighth session and on any further views communicated by INCD members to the Interim Secretariat, in writing, by 15 April 1996.

(b) *Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties*: consistent with decision 8/7, the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/48/Rev.1 providing a revised text reflecting deliberations in the Group at the eighth session.

(c) *Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation*: the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/49/Rev.1 containing, in accordance with INCD decision 8/8, a revised draft decision reflecting the deliberations of the Group at the eighth session and document A/AC.241/58 reporting on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention.

3. Special action: urgent action for Africa and actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions

The Plenary will continue its examination of measures taken to implement the resolution on urgent measures for Africa, as well as actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions. Discussions will be organized by themes regarding issues arising in the progress of interim action.

The Executive Secretary will report on measures taken by the Secretariat to facilitate special action, on cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies and coordination with other conventions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Executive Secretary will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote ratification and accession.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/59 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status and funding needs of the Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries, and the Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the tenth session

The provisional agenda for the tenth session will be attached to the report of the ninth session.

7. Adoption of the report of the session

A draft report on the work of the session will be presented for consideration by the Committee, in accordance with established practice.

ANNEX I

List of documents for the ninth session of the Committee

A/AC.241/53	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/54	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/55	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/45/Rev.1	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/57	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48/Rev.1	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49/Rev.1	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention
A/AC.241/9/Add.12	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Other documents of relevance

Secretariat documents:

Fifth session

A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention

Sixth session

A/AC.241/28	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30 and Add.1	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

Seventh session

A/AC.241/32	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/33	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/34	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/35	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/36	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/37	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/38	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/39	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/40	Implementation of urgent action for Africa and action in other regions: compilation of information

A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/41/Add.1	" "
A/AC.241/9/Add.10	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Eighth session

A/AC.241/42	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/44	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/45	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/46	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/47	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration
A/AC.241/52	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/52/Add.1	" "
A/AC.241/9/Add.11	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Report of past INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

ANNEX II
Tentative schedule of work

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Tuesday, 3 Sept			
A.M.10:00	Adoption of agenda and organization of work; (Doc. A/AC.241/53) followed by meetings of regional groups	------	------
P.M.15:00	Meetings of regional groups	------	------
Wednesday 4 Sept			
A.M.10:00	Introductory statements; status of signature and ratification; NGO accreditation (Doc.A/AC.241/9/ Add.12)	------	------
P.M.15:00		**Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/56)**	**Rules of procedure (A/AC.241/48/ Rev.1)**
Thursday, 5 Sept			
A.M.10:00	-----	**Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/56)**	**Rules of procedure (Doc. A/AC.241/48 Rev.1)**
P.M.15:00	------	**Designation of a Permanent Secretariat (Docs. A/AC.241/54 and 55)**	**S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/57)**
Friday, 6 Sept			
A.M.10:00	------	**Designation of a Permanent Secretariat (Docs. A/AC.241/54 and 55)**	**S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/57)**
P.M.15:00	**Review of progress; review of situation as regards extrabudgetary funds** (Doc. A/AC.241/59)	------	------

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 9 September			
A.M. 10:00	------	Financial rules (Doc.A/AC.241/45/ Rev.1)	Communication of info and review of implementation (Docs.A/AC.241/49/ Rev.1 and 58)
P.M. 15:00	------	Financial rules (A.AC.241/45/ Rev.1)	[To be determined]
Tuesday, 10 Sept			
A:M. 10:00	------	[To be determined]	[To be determined]
P.M. 15:00	------	" "	" "
Wednesday, 11 Sept			
A.M. 10:00	Urgent action for Africa and interim actions in Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions	------	------
P.M: 15:00	" "	------	------
Thursday, 12 Sept			
A.M. 10:00	------	------	------
P.M. 15:00	------	------	------
Friday, 13 Sept			
A.M. 10:00	Adoption of report and provisional agenda of tenth session[1]	------	------

[1] Depending on progress of work, the Chairman intends to adjourn the session if possible on Thursday afternoon